

H. Res. 569

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

October 7, 2002.

Whereas nearly 20,000 Americans, many of them children, die of drug-induced deaths, more than 52,000 Americans die from drug-related causes, and more than 600,000 Americans visit hospital emergency rooms for drug-related episodes every year;

Whereas the United States has for years been one of the largest consumers of illegal drugs in the world;

Whereas more than 50 percent of high school seniors have experimented with an illegal drug at least once prior to graduation, 2,800,000 Americans are considered to be “dependent” on illegal drugs, and an additional 1,500,000 are in the less severe “abuser” category;

Whereas the societal costs, including lost productivity, of the illegal drug problem in America have reached a staggering \$160,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas the United States is experiencing a dramatic increase in the potency of marijuana and sharply escalating use of drugs such as methamphetamines, “club drugs” such as (“ecstasy”) and abuse of legally prescribed drugs such as Oxycontin;

Whereas the Office of National Drug Control Policy within the Executive Office of the President was established by

the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to coordinate the Nation's overall counter-narcotics efforts;

Whereas the United States has consistently and firmly supported a “balanced” approach in the war on drugs, and the National Drug Control Strategy for 2002 calls for stopping drug use before it starts through education and community action, healing America's drug users by getting treatment resources where they are needed, and disrupting the market by attacking the economic basis of the drug trade;

Whereas more than 5,000 community anti-drug coalitions across America have been created to bring together parents, teachers, coaches, mentors, business leaders, faith-based organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to reduce drug use through effective grassroots efforts;

Whereas the President of the United States has directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to better define and address the so-called “treatment gap” in America through increased and more effective drug treatment facilities across America and by convincing nearly 90 percent of drug abusers, particularly adolescents, that they in fact need help;

Whereas the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign plays an important role in reducing drug use and social disapproval of drugs;

Whereas there is a well-established link between the profits from the illegal drug trade and the financing of many of the world's leading terrorist organizations, including the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), and the illegal

narcotics trade has contributed directly to social and political instability and loss of innocent life in democratic nations in the Andean region and around the world;

Whereas the United States Government and the House of Representatives are working closely with allied nations to stop the international production and transit of illegal drugs and promote alternative development and means of economic growth;

Whereas the capabilities of the United States Coast Guard, the United States Customs Service, and the United States Border Patrol are critical to our Nation's drug interdiction efforts and must be maintained at no less than their current levels;

Whereas Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies are working diligently to enforce laws prohibiting the use of illegal drugs and to interdict illegal drug traffic to the United States;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States decisively reaffirmed that the Controlled Substances Act is binding national law in *United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Collective*, 532 U.S. 483 (2001); and

Whereas the use of illegal drugs has been decisively rejected by the American people as inconsistent with the general welfare of the United States and individual dignity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for the President of the United States and the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the goal to reduce drug use in America by 10

percent during the next 2 years and 25 percent during the next 5 years;

(2) calls on all Americans to join in the effort to prevent, reduce, and reject illegal drug use in America by talking to children about the dangers and consequences of illegal drug use and encouraging other responsible adults to do the same in their families and communities;

(3) calls on the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the heads of subsidiary agencies (including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Customs Service, the United States Coast Guard, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration) to work together to effectively implement the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy and continue to seek ways to improve the coordination among Federal, State, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, corporations, foreign governments, and private citizens to reduce the demand for international supply of illegal drugs in the United States;

(4) expresses its sense that narcotics control is an integral part of homeland security and should be a priority mission for any new Department of Homeland Security;

(5) commends all Federal, State, and local government personnel working to combat illegal drug use in the United States, as well as community leaders who seek to make a difference across the United States; and

(6) reaffirms the sense of the House of Representatives against any use of narcotic and other drugs in a manner inconsistent with the Controlled Substances Act.
Attest:

Clerk.